

SANDERSON
HIGH SCHOOL
choir

2019 - 2020 SYLLABUS
SOUND - VOICES - SANDPIPERS

Dr. James Brown, Director of Choral Activities

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Office Hours: by appointment

www.SANDERSONCHOIR.com

SOUND AND VOICES

Designed for the dedicated choral musician, Spartan singers are not required to audition prior to enrolling.

Exploration of the voice alone and with others, general music reading and sight singing skills, and performance proficiency will be learned. Students perform a variety of music literature and will be asked to recognize, identify, recall, and explain musical ideals and concepts. Singers will travel outside of SHS to represent the school and choral department. Students are expected to maintain not only the highest of musical standards but highest of academic and social standards. Occasional outside performances will be required of singers and any conflicts must be submitted in writing to Dr. Brown by the predetermined date. After-school requirements are attendance at the December and May dress rehearsal and concert.

SANDPIPERS

The Sandpipers is a highly competitive, auditioned group. Students are selected for this class based on their musicianship/sight -reading ability and audition. Because of the demanding performance schedule of this group, you are expected to allot a large amount of time outside of normal school hours to familiarize yourself with your music. This auditioned/advanced ensemble will travel outside of SHS to represent the school and choral department. Students are expected to maintain not only the highest of musical standards but highest of academic and social standards.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

Activities during this course will aid the student in their development of the following:

1. a healthy and expressive vocal technique
2. an active and assertive approach to the rehearsal process
3. an awareness of expressive devices composers use to communicate their musical ideas
4. an awareness of the structural function of musical elements

CLASSROOM EXPECTATIONS: The expectations for the chorus classroom are:

1. Attend all classes, rehearsals, and performances.
2. Have all materials in hand prior to each rehearsal.
3. Be punctual for all rehearsals/performances.
4. Participate with a positive attitude—one that respects the conductor, the music, and the other musicians.

5. Put forth your best effort at all times.
6. Work to build unity within each section and the group.
7. Encourage a positive, focused atmosphere in the rehearsal setting.
8. Master elements of performance literature including: a) pitches and rhythms, b) texts and translations, c) phrasing and dynamics, and d) expressive elements of the choral art.
9. Silence cell phone and other devices prior to the start of rehearsal.
10. Listen when others ask questions or make suggestions, you may need the same information.
11. Direct any musical questions to director following rehearsal.

SUPPLIES/ MATERIALS FOR CLASS: You will need the following items for class every day, without exception:

- Water bottle, music & provided supplies, pencil, pitchfork, and positive attitude
- Fair Share (see below) \$110

CLASSROOM GRADING:

- Performances/Dress Rehearsals: 40%
- Homework: 10%
- Rehearsal Skills: 15%
- Portfolio Assessments: 35%

GRADE RECOVERY:

MISSED/MAKE-UP WORK: Class attendance is imperative. If a student has lost their voice, they are still expected to be in rehearsal. Students must be prepared for rehearsals regardless of absences. If new material is learned, **the student is responsible for finding what they missed.** If further assistance is needed, see Dr. Brown. Students will be given an appropriate amount of time to complete assignments. If you are absent, you will have **2 days extension** for each **excused** day absent. Students have 2 DAYS to bring a note to the attendance office to receive an EXCUSED ABSENCE. It is the STUDENT’S responsibility to find out and make up any missed work. Work turned in late due to unexcused absences will count as late work.

	On Time	Recovery		On Time	Recovery		On Time	Recovery		On Time	Recovery
A+	100	80	B+	89	71	C+	79	63	D+	69	55
A	96	77	B	86	69	C	76	61	D	66	53
A-	93	75	B-	83	66	C-	73	58	D-	63	50

SANDERSON ACADEMIC RECOVERY PROCESS: In order to give each student the best possible learning experience, it is imperative that all parties are held accountable for success (or failure) in the classroom. Responsibility falls on each student, their parents, and their team of teachers. We understand that a student may struggle to master some concepts in a timely manner. Therefore, our Academic Recovery Process is accessible to all students and offered when:

- The student is attending class on a regular basis
- The student has given sufficient first effort on assignments
- The student completes recovery in a timely manner

HONOR CODE: For Offense(s) –A zero will be placed in the grade book until the alternative assignment has been assessed. Final Grade on the assignment will be no greater than 60%.

For repeated offences the student will be referred to administration.

For final exams honor code violations may result in a misadministration.

Please see Sanderson’s Honor Code Policy for more information.

CELL PHONE POLICY: Cell phones/Personal Devices will not be allowed for personal use without teacher instruction. Use of personal devices during class without teacher direction will result in the removal of the device for the class period. See Sanderson’s BYOD website for WCPSS procedures and standards regarding BYOD.

CLASSROOM PORTFOLIO: This year students will be responsible for completing an online portfolio to document growth and mastery of their content. Students **MUST** submit work on time. Google Drive will be used with this. Choir is not an easy A.

CLASSROOM BATHROOM & WATER POLICY: Students will not be allowed to use the bathroom or get water during class. If there is a special need, please send an email to Dr. Brown. Students are expected to keep water bottles at their seats.

ATTENDANCE/ TARDY POLICY: Students are to be in the room at class start time. Punctuality is professional. For performances, dress rehearsals, outside events, arriving “at 5:30” for a 5:30 call time is **TARDY** and will affect the grade.

CLASS BEHAVIOR CONSEQUENCES: Quarter Based. All offenses will be documented.

- 1ST OFFENSE: verbal warning
- 2ND OFFENSE: verbal warning & student/teacher talk
- 3RD OFFENSE: parent email
- 4TH OFFENSE: School Service Detention/ Administration Referral

INTEGRITY POLICY Cheating and/or plagiarism (copying someone else’s work) will not tolerated.

CONCERT ATTENDANCE POLICY **Performing is an integral and essential part of chorus and a key part of musicianship.** All choirs are required to perform in an Informance, Winter and Spring Dress Rehearsal and Concert, and spring Music Performance Adjudication performance/adjudication. Various choruses will have other opportunities to perform throughout the year. Attendance at music performance assessments, winter and spring dress rehearsals and concerts, are **mandatory**.

There are only two legitimate reasons to miss a mandatory event: documented family emergency and illness. **Dr. Brown reserves the right to ask for official documentation in the advent of either case to determine an excused or unexcused absence. A make-up assignment will be handled on a case by case basis for an excused absence. By default, unexcused absences result in a failing grade.** Examples of unexcused absences include, but are not limited to: extracurricular activities (dance, sports, play practice, etc.), family vacations (you are expected to plan around our concert dates), transportation issues (please plan ahead).

For other performances, attendance is expected. If a student cannot attend, they are expected to complete a PERFORMANCE ABSENCE SHEET by a set date, dependent on each performance, established by Dr. Brown. Any absence without submission of a PERFORMANCE ABSENCE SHEET will affect the student's grade and standing within the choral department. Be professional. Each person's attendance affects the ensemble. PERFORMANCE ABSENCE SHEETS will not be accepted for semester concerts, dress rehearsals, and MPA.

PERFORMANCE ATTIRE:

Formal Concert Dress

- Designated Uniform
- If wearing a dress, BLACK MATCHING PANTYHOSE or KNEE-HIGHS must be worn and shoes must be CLOSED-TOE low heeled shoes. No stockings/socks are NOT ACCEPTABLE. Designated jewelry alone (no other jewelry) must be worn.
- If wearing a tux, BLACK SOCKS must be worn. BLACK DRESS SHOES are required.

Informal Concert Dress

- Sanderson Chorus T-Shirt (not wrinkled) Does not have to be tucked in.
- Jeans without holes.
- Presentable sneakers or other nice casual shoes (closed-toe)

Failure to wear appropriate concert attire will result in a reduction of the concert grade. Students will be fitted for attire the first week of school.

CHOIR BOOSTERS: The Sanderson Choir Boosters 501(c)3 supports the choral program through a variety of means. The Choir Board is a subset of parent guardian leaders from the Boosters who meet monthly to discuss the financial, fundraising, events, travel, and other means of the choir program. There are general booster club meetings for ALL guardians and choir students. There are occasional Choir Board meetings for Choir Booster Officers that are held off-site. If you are interested in becoming a Board Member, please e-mail Dr. Brown.

FAIR SHARE: There are expenses associated with being in the choral program. These expenses are not funded through the school, so it is necessary to request choral department members/boosters to help meet the financial needs of the program. The Choral program has a FAIR SHARE support program to help fund the operating budget. A financial commitment exists for choir students in the amount of \$110 for all students. FAIR SHARE can be paid via cash/check/online, or by finding community sponsors (fundraising) and that financial assistance exists in cases of need. Outfit expenses can likewise be paid via cash/check/online or through requested benevolence. Some grants/scholarships may be available to those with considerable financial need, but a benevolence request application must be turned in before expenses are due and purchased items (i.e. outfits) must be returned to the choral boosters after they have been borrowed.

COMMUNICATION: I will do my best to send out weekly emails of upcoming events and expectations and will use your provided emails in the online guardian form. I will do my best to respond to emails within 24-48 hours during the Monday-Friday work week. On breaks and weekends, please do not expect a response until the following work day. In case of an emergency, have your student contact a student director or choir manager.